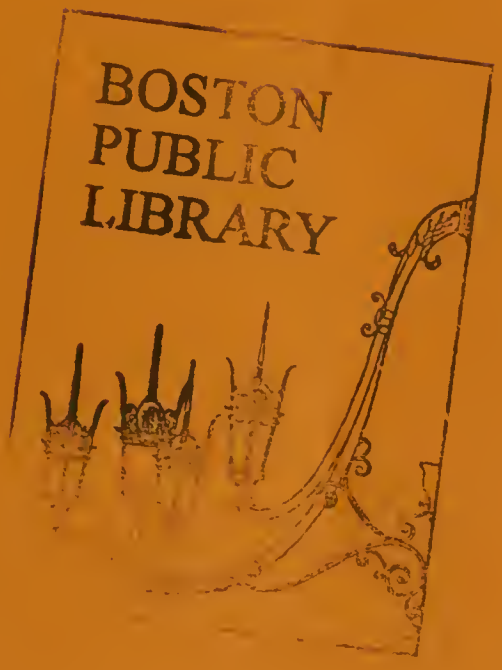
Government Documents
BRA
2244

Property of
BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Library

ALVAH KITTREDGE HOUSE



Roxbury
R886

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Suffolk
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Alvah Kittredge House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 12 Linwood Street
CITY OR TOWN: Roxbury

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Suffolk	025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☒ Other (Specify) Community Center	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Boston
STREET AND NUMBER: Boston City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Boston	Massachusetts	025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Registry of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER: Suffolk County Court House, Norfolk County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Boston, Dedham	Massachusetts	025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Roxbury Highlands Study
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☒ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Boston Architectural Center
STREET AND NUMBER: 320 Newbury Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Boston	Massachusetts	025

STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Suffolk
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☒ Moved	☐ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alvah Kittredge House is a large free-standing frame Greek Revival mansion of two stories. Presently, the house is square with a small rear addition and has a hipped roof topped by a flat glazed octagonal cupola. Tall Ionic columns that support the full portico's broad entablature exhibit strong horizontal and vertical emphasis. Surfaced with flush siding, the five bay facade has elongated ground floor windows with 6/6 pane sashes that are topped by slightly pedimented lintels but are otherwise unframed. The upper windows have 4/4 pane sashes. Although the central door frame is covered by a projecting bracketed hood of a later date, the trabiated bands of lights surrounding the doorway appear original. Heavy plain pilasters at the corners frame the entire facade. The side walls, sheathed in narrow clapboards, are four bays deep; pairs of windows flank two evenly spaced interior fireplaces whose chimney stacks protrude from the roofline. When the house was moved in the late 19th century, side wings were removed. The foundation of, and the stairs leading to the portico are modern.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1836 - 1896

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Londscope Architecture	☐ Social/Humonitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1836, the Alvah Kittredge House, a handsome Greek Revival mansion, is significant both for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of its type and period and for its associations with the lives of two locally prominant persons--Alvah Kittredge, early developer of the area, and Nathaniel J. Bradlee, noted Boston architect.

Kittredge, a merchant, purchased several large parcels of land in the Roxbury Highlands which rose south of the early 18th century settlement at Eliot Square. His mansion was constructed on the site of the Roxbury Lower Fort on what is now Highland, Linwood and Cedar Streets. The Lower Fort, erected in the summer of 1775, was a companion to the High Fort, built in the same year in the location of the present Highland Park. Both forts were part of the chain of defenses that helped bring about the evacuation of the British from Boston.

Kittredge and several other investors began an informal movement which resulted in the development of a dense residential suburb. Kittredge sold the house in 1866, and in five years Bradlee became its owner. Besides many designs for South End residences, Bradlee is known for his plans of The Fellowes Athenaeum in Roxbury, the former Boston & Maine Railroad Station at Haymarket Square, the Second Church, Copley Square, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in the South End, and the Old New England Mutual Life Insurance building at Post Office Square. Bradlee himself did some remodeling of his Roxbury house. By the time Bradlee sold the house in 1896, the development boom had spread, covering the Highlands with blocks of rowhouses and other forms of multi-family housing. When the last two estates on Kittredge Square were to be subdivided, the Kittredge House was moved from its probable Highland Street frontage to the present location on Linwood Street.

Although hemmed in by later buildings, the house occupies a key position visually on Kittredge Square being clearly visable to anyone approaching the square on Highland Street.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Drake, Frances S., The Town of Roxbury: Its Memorable Persons and Places, Roxbury, 1878

Unpublished papers of Reverent Wolcott Cutler (at Boston Athenaeum)

Major, Howard, Domestic Architecture of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, 1926.

Plans, Vol. 1-50, N. J. Bradlee (at Boston Athenaeum)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES OEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		42	19	39.62	71	05	43.59
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Judith McDonough

ORGANIZATION
Boston Landmarks Commission

DATE
March, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE
Massachusetts

CODE
025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

_____

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Alvah Kittredge House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 10 Linwood St.

CITY OR TOWN: Roxbury

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Suffolk	025

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: Topographic & Planimetric Survey of the City of Boston

SCALE: 1:200

DATE: 1962

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

Leah Kilfredge House, 10 Linwood St., Roxbury, Massachusetts

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Alvah Kittredge House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 10 Linwood Street

CITY OR TOWN: Roxbury

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Suffolk	025

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Series, Boston South Quadrangle

SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1965

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property broundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 9999 06316 352 9

Roxbury
R886
AUTHOR
Alvah Kittredge House
TITLE
II 4
Bost
Alva
Regi